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THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART
CLEVELAND 6. OHIO
TELEPHONE: GARFIELD 1-7340

FOR RELEASE

The headliners among the 35th Anniversary gifts shown this summer by The Cleveland Museum of Art in Gallery IX are the Edward B. Greene Collection of Portrait Miniatures, the Byzantine liturgical silver and the three pieces of Saint Porchaire pottery.

Just for fragile pottery to have lasted four hundred years is an achievement. The elaboration of the pieces is remarkable. They are in a technique that was followed for a period of only thirty years, near Paris. Only about sixty pieces are known in the world today. They are so rare that the greatest museums treasure a broken fragment.

In today-terms of machine production by untrained workers it seems impossible that human hands could have done such intricate work as the Saint-Porchaire presents. The Bouquetier, Salt-cellar, and Cup are modeled in elaborate figures of animals, heads and fanciful decoration. Further these figures are covered with patterns made by engraving fine lines on all the surfaces of the white clay into which tiny lines of clays of different colors are inserted. Nobody knows how it was done-- but there it is.